

Friday, November 30, 2007

NTSB Praises National Air Bag and Seat Belt Safety Campaign



In a letter to its founders, Chairman Rosenker praised the Air Bag & Seat Belt Safety Campaign, which will cease operations at the end of this year, for advocating primary enforcement seat belt laws, and for its leadership in improving passenger safety. The Campaign was founded partly in response to 1995 Safety Board recommendations that asked automobile manufacturers to warn parents of the dangers that air bags posed to children. "The Campaign has been a remarkable example of a public-private partnership to advance air bag safety and increase safety belt use," Rosenker said. During its decade long existence, the Campaign assisted in bringing about a cultural shift in the way children 12 and under are transported in vehicles - in a rear seat. "This is one of the most successful changes in societal behavior in recent decades, rivaling changes in attitudes toward smoking and drunk driving," Rosenker said. The campaign also spearheaded national adoption of the Click It or Ticket program and fostered a massive national annual law enforcement mobilization to enforce seat belt use laws. Their initiatives helped to achieve a national seat belt use rate of more than 82 percent, a 21-percentage-point increase. Furthermore, the Campaign's efforts led to adoption of primary enforcement seat belt use laws in more states; these laws now cover about two-thirds of the U.S. population, compared to less than 40 percent when the Campaign began.

Chairman Rosenker Promotes Recreational Boating and Aviation Safety

Chairman Rosenker addressed the Marine Retailers Association of America (MRAA) at its annual conference in Las Vegas on November 27. During his speech the Chairman focused on the use of personal flotation devices, which is on the NTSB's Most Wanted list of safety recommendations, and the safety of sole state passenger vessels.

Following a brief summary of safety recommendations issued by the NTSB in March 2006 after a Board-sponsored 2004 forum on personal flotation devices, Rosenker called upon attendees to continue to "work to change the boating culture to better accept the wearing of life jackets."

Rosenker commended the MRAA for issuing a public policy statement in September 2007 in support of boating safety education in every state. Rosenker said, "In 2008, we are looking for safety legislative initiatives in California, Maine, Massachusetts, Utah, North Carolina and Minnesota" and then called upon MRAA members "to add their important support for recreational boating safety initiatives in these states."

Chairman Rosenker also summarized the results of the October 2006 forum on the topic of sole state passenger vessels that covered issues such as vessel certification and safety inspection, passenger and crew safety, and marine accident reporting. Chairman Rosenker said the Board will "continue to follow this issue closely" and will encourage all states to improve and strengthen their oversight guidelines for this class of vessels.

On November 29, the Chairman was a panelist at the Fourth Annual FAA International Air Safety Forum in Chantilly, Virginia. Chairman Rosenker served on the five member panel which debated Global Safety Management Integration and Consistent Global Policies and Regulations. The panel was moderated by the Chief Operating Officer of the FAA, Mr. Hank Krakowski.



Chairman Rosenker Addresses the MRAA Conference in Las Vegas, NV

NTSB Visits Cruise Ship



Board employees (L to R) Ted Lopatkiewicz, Bridget Serchak, Peter Knudson, Kevin Renze, Eric Fielding and Larry Bowling visit Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's *Grandeur of the Seas* in Baltimore on Sunday, November 25, 2007. Pictured with the group is ship captain Rob Hempstead. The group toured the operations center, engine room, evaporator and waste processing area, recycling collection area and incinerator, medical facilities, and the ship's bridge. The group also was able to observe the passenger safety briefing as it was being broadcast from the bridge during the muster drill. The NTSB Office of Marine Safety hopes to schedule another cruise ship tour in 2008 for interested Board employees.

NTSB Sends Team to Chicago to Investigate Rail Collision

The NTSB dispatched a Go Team to investigate the collision between an Amtrak passenger train and a freight train in Chicago, Illinois on the afternoon of November 30.

At 12:30PM CST an Amtrak passenger train collided with the rear of a standing Norfolk Southern freight train. NTSB Rail Investigator Ted Turpin will serve as Investigator-in-Charge and lead the 7-member team. Vice Chairman Robert Sumwalt will accompany the team and serve as spokesman for the on-scene investigation. Keith Holloway is the press officer accompanying the team.

Upcoming Board Meeting

The NTSB will hold a public Board meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 9:30 a.m., in its Board Room and Conference Center, 429 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC.

There are two items on the agenda:

* On February 7, 2006, about 11:59 pm (EST), United Parcel Service Company (UPS) flight 1307, a McDonnell Douglas DC-8-71F, landed at Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, after a cargo smoke indication in the cockpit. The captain, first officer, and flight engineer evacuated from the airplane after landing. The flight crewmembers sustained minor injuries, and the airplane and most of the cargo were destroyed by fire after landing.

* On July 16, 2004, about 12:00 p.m., a 2000 Kenworth tractor towing a 2000 Hyundai semitrailer, owned by Equity Transportation Company, Inc. was traveling at a witness-estimated speed of 60 mph and failed to slow in time for a slowly moving traffic queue on Interstate 94 East near Chelsea, Mich. that included a 1999 Sterling tractor towing a 1997 Great Dane semitrailer and a 2004 Saturn station wagon. The Kenworth tractor struck the Sterling semitrailer, trapping and fatally injuring the driver of the Kenworth tractor, and propelled the Sterling tractor into the Saturn in front of it. The driver of the Sterling tractor and a passenger in the Saturn received minor injuries.

Upcoming Courses at the NTSB Training Center

As the year comes to a close, courses are still taking place at the NTSB Training Center. The following courses still remain for the 2007 calendar year.

December 3-4 – Investigating Human Fatigue Factors

December 5-6 – Cognitive Interviewing

December 11-13 – Advanced Skills in Disaster Family Assistance

For more information on the NTSB Training Center and its courses, please contact Jim Pritchard at james.pritchard@ntsb.gov or visit the website at: <http://www.nts.gov/TC/TrainingCenter.htm>.

